

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION
NOVEMBER 20, 2009
(SPECIAL SESSION)**

PRESENT: Commissioners Donald P. Berry, Sr. (Chairman), Amy R. Fowler and William D. Shorey, with County Clerk Barbara Arseneau taking minutes.

Commissioner Berry opened the court session at 4:30 p.m.

RE-ENTRY FACILITY:

Present with the County Commissioners for this discussion was Sheriff Scott Story and Chief Deputy Robert Keating.

1. RE-ENTRY FACILITY POLICIES: S. Story explained that there were a number of policies that have been sent out by the Jail Administrator and the VOA Director Michael Tausek to DOC Ralph Nichols and Sheriff Story, who then forwarded to the County Commissioners for their review. S. Story asked if the Commissioners wished to look them over well, or would rather allow him, along with Ralph Nichols, to do this. If the Commissioners wished to look through the reports and get their thoughts back, this would need to be done by December 15, 2009. A. Fowler said she had read them all and D. Berry said he had read about half.

****A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded, to have the Sheriff handle the review as long as everything was in compliance with the Board of Corrections, etc. Unanimous.**

2. FACILITY OPENING DATE: S. Story related that the plan has been to open the Waldo County Re-entry facility officially on November 30, 2009, but this is not going to happen for another week or two. An open house is scheduled for December 2, 2009. S. Story said he was letting the Commissioners know now but they would also receive a formal invitation. The Governor will be invited. Criminal Justice, BOC will be attending, etc.

3. RESIGNATION & FILLING POSITION:

S. Story reported that Deputy C. Glenn Graef has submitted his resignation to be effective December 31, 2009. In preparing to fill that vacancy, the Sheriff reported that they have performed a background check, polygraph, etc. and would like to recommend an individual and to start him December 13, 2009. The paperwork is ready. The Sheriff's Office had gone seven weeks this year without a Lieutenant, so the Sheriff's budget can withstand having both people working simultaneously for a little bit, which he was recommending to the Commissioners.

****A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded to accept with regret the resignation of Deputy C. Glenn Graef, effective December 31, 2009. Unanimous.**

****A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded to approve the full-time hire of Darren Moody effective December 13, 2009. Unanimous.**

COMMISSIONERS BUSINESS:

Present for this discussion were Sheriff Scott Story and Chief Deputy Robert Keating.

1. FUNDING FOR PROPOSED NEW SHERIFF'S OFFICE:

D. Berry related this week's activity regarding the homework being done to obtain funding to build a new Sheriff's Office. W. Shorey met on Monday with USDA representative Lewis Sirois. The amount of funding being researched is approximately \$800,000.00 to \$1,000,000.00, with the County possibly contributing approximately \$200,000.00. D. Berry reminded all that \$113,519.00 was placed in a newly created Sheriff's Office Reserve. The savings would be such that it might be borrowed at an interest rate of 4.25%, which would mean that this project could potentially cost about half the annual amount that has been paid over the past nine years for the bond on the Communications Center that was built in 2001. This is a loan application with the possibility of a grant opportunity, as well. D. Berry had been called in Wednesday by Mr. Sirois, to sign some preliminary application paperwork in the capacity of Chairman of the Board of Commissioners. The cost estimate is about \$175.00 per square foot. Originally, it was thought that it would run about \$150.00 per square foot, but Mr. Sirois had reported that the USDA engineer felt that figure was too low. D. Berry said he planned on bringing this up at the Public Hearing this evening. "Wouldn't it would be great, if we could pull this down and then get both this and the EMA facility bid on by the same company?" he commented. Both A. Fowler and W. Shorey agreed that this would be an excellent opportunity to address the needs of both offices.

A. Fowler said she was assuming that the site that had been reviewed was up where the Sheriff's Office currently is, and not the County's property that was undeveloped. She wondered if this unused land would serve as collateral. The Commissioners agreed that they would need to discuss the future of the unused land to determine the best course of action.

****W. Shorey moved, A. Fowler seconded to seek approval for a loan for the Sheriff's Office to be located up where the garden used to be, with RUS (USDA) in Bangor.** Discussion: R. Keating said they were scheduled next Wednesday to work with an architect on the EMA building project. He wondered if they should stop at this point. The Commissioners explained that Mr. Sirois is a loaner, not an architect. The Commissioners said to move forward with that meeting with the architect as planned. D. Berry suggested that there may be ways to double-up on architectural and engineering work since both the EMA and Sheriff's building projects would be happening so close together in terms of both completion and actual location.

S. Story said he and his staff would be available to assist with anything the Commissioners needed in this process. He illustrated that B. Arseneau had contacted him yesterday to request photos of the property site, and they were taken and sent this morning. B. Arseneau added that the Sheriff had sent excellent photos and had sent more than what was requested, including a satellite overhead view of the site.

D. Berry recalled that a selectman had recently asked what the Commissioners' plans were and now the Commissioners have a plan. D. Berry listed some of the questions that needed to be answered on the pre-application and stated that these would need to be completed soon.

W. Shorey said, looking at it several different ways, he felt that this was the only feasible way to do this to get things started for the Sheriff's Office. He said he still wanted to talk about the land in two scenarios: Sell all of it, or sell all but twenty acres. He also wondered if they would be able to sell the Sheriff's House. S. Story recalled that within the last two years, an appraisal had been

performed on the Sheriff's Office and it had more value than he would have ever thought – about \$150,000.00, as he recalled.

W. Shorey reported that Mr. Sirois had expressed his feeling that where they were planning to build the proposed Sheriff's Office and the proposed EMA building made great sense and the location was logical. S. Story emphasized the need to continue to keep the Sheriff's Office next to the Jail, as the deputies serve as back-up to the re-entry facility. **Passed unanimously.**

The Commissioners discussed how to bring all this information to the municipal officers. The application process for a Community Facilities loan/guarantee/grant to also requires evidence of significant community support in the form of a letter of support from any affected local government body, which would typically include City/Town Managers, etc.

W. Shorey said he honestly felt that after building the Sheriff's Office, there may not be another need to build any other buildings than possibly a courthouse, for the next 10 to 15 years.

2. HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUM FOR 2010.

****A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded raising the employee contribution portion of the applicable health insurance premium from 5% to 10%. Unanimous.**

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

****W. Shorey, A. Fowler seconded to approve the following Commissioners Court Session Minutes: July 23, 2009, August 11, 2009, August 31, 2009, September 1, 2009, September 17, 2009, September 23, 2009, and September 28, 2009. Unanimous.** The Commissioners commended the County Clerk and Deputy County Clerk for their efforts to catch up on the backlog of un-transcribed minutes.

4. INDIVIDUAL COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

A. Fowler reported that she met with the Republican Senator's Committee recently and that she tried to educate them as to the issues with funding the Jails.

A. Fowler reported that she also recently met with the Court Closing Committee and was assured that the Waldo County District Courthouse will be receiving assistance for the handicap ramp. Waldo's courthouse is not slated to be closed at this point. There are currently four others on the list. A. Fowler briefly outlined the value of video arraignments in efficiency and cost reduction.

5. The Commissioners approved the small overdraft in Commissioners' Printing/Engraving line in the amount of \$22.58 for printing the County budgets.

****W. Shorey moved, A. Fowler seconded to adjourn the Commissioners Court Session at 5:17 p.m. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted by Barbara L. Arseneau
Waldo County Clerk